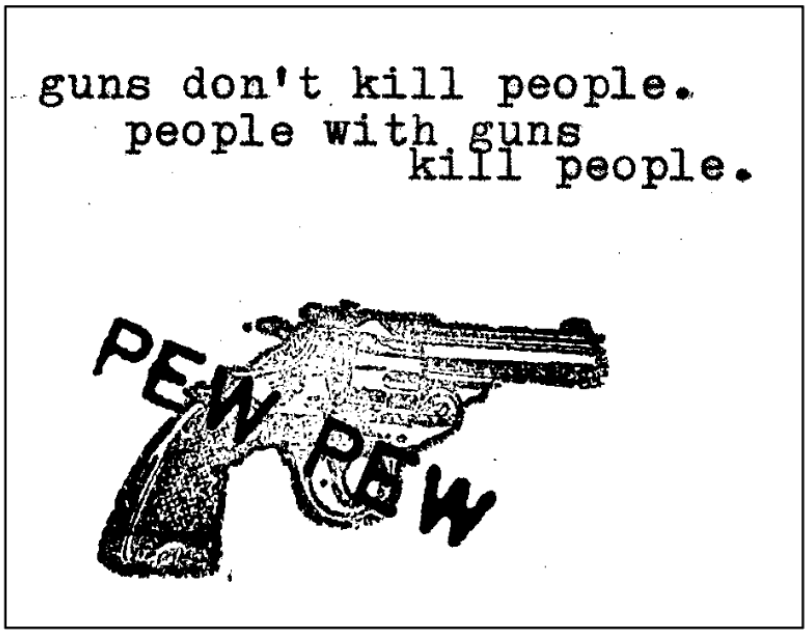
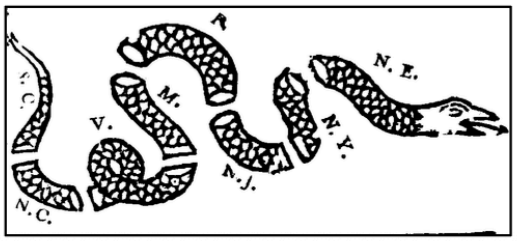
A *Very* Brief Anthology of Gun Culture in the United Snakes* of America

(mainly it's pictures of guns that
I've come across in popular culture)
[without trying very hard *at all*]



*Don't get too mad –
Ben Franklin said it first,
Dr. Chott said it second:



February 2024
Murphyao Ink
www.murphyao.com

North Side Baseball Coach Displayed Gun After His Team Lost, Police And Witnesses Say

This alarming August 2023 headline (the coach was a dude from the suburbs, take the name Chicago out of your mouth) demonstrates why... you don't need to take a gun to a baseball game?!?!?! Oh and road rage shootings are also on the rise in the Chicagoland area. Don't use your cell phone while driving, and don't use your gun while driving either!

As they put it in *Wayne's World* (1992): "A gun rack?? I don't even own *a* gun, let alone many guns that would necessitate an entire rack." But I was shopping for a *car* organizer when I found this *gun* organizer from L.L. Bean:

June 2022

Great,* you can 3D print a gun.

United Against Gun Violence
https://www.bradyunited.org › what...

What Are Ghost Guns?

Ghost guns are unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be bought online and assembled at home. They are often sold through "ghost gun kits,"

(Do not do this.)

*That is sarcasm.

(430 ILCS 66/65) Sec. 65. Prohibited areas.

(a) A licensee under this Act shall not knowingly carry a firearm on or into: (1) Any building, real property, and parking area under the control of a public or private elementary or secondary school, (2) a pre-school or child care facility, including any room or portion of a building under the control of a pre-school or child care facility. Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the operator of a child care facility in a family home from owning or possessing a firearm in the home or license under this Act, if no child under child care at the home is present in the home or the firearm in the home is stored in a locked container when a child under child care at the home is present in the home, (3) an officer of the executive or legislative branch of government, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit a licensee from carrying a concealed firearm onto the real property, bikeway, or trail in a park regulated by the Department of Natural Resources or any other designated public hunting area or building where firearm possession is permitted as established by the Department of Natural Resources under Section 1.8 of the Wildlife Code. (4) Any building designated for matters before a circuit court, appellate court, or the Supreme Court, or any building or portion of a building under the control of the Supreme Court. (5) Any building or portion of a building under the control of a unit of local government. (6) Any building, real property, and parking area under the control of an adult or juvenile detention or correctional institution, prison, or jail, (7) of a public or private hospital or hospital affiliate, mental health facility, or nursing home. (8) Any bus, train, or form of transportation paid for in whole or in part with public funds, and any building, real property, and parking area under the control of a public transportation facility paid for in whole or in part with public funds. (9) Any building, real property, and parking area under the control of an establishment that serves alcohol on its premises, if more than 50% of the establishment's gross receipts within the prior 3 months is from the sale of alcohol. The owner of an establishment who knowingly fails to prohibit concealed firearms on its premises as provided in this paragraph or who knowingly makes a false statement or record to avoid the prohibition on concealed firearms under this paragraph is subject to the penalty under subsection (c-5) of Section 10-1 of the Liquor Control Act of 1934. (10) Any public gathering or special event conducted on property open to the public that requires the issuance of a permit from the unit of local government, provided this prohibition shall not apply to a licensee who must walk through a public gathering in order to access his or her residence, place of business, or vehicle. (11) Any building or real property that has been issued a Special Event Retailer's license as defined in Section 1-3.17.1 of the Liquor Control Act during the time designated for the sale of alcohol by the Special Event Retailer's license, or a Special use permit license as defined in subsection (q) of Section 5-1 of the Liquor Control Act during the time designated for the sale of alcohol by the Special use permit license. (12) Any public playground. (13) Any public park, athletic area, or athletic facility under the control of a municipality or park district, provided nothing in this Section shall prohibit a licensee from carrying a concealed firearm while on a trail or bikeway if only a portion of the trail or bikeway includes a public park. (14) Any real property under the control of the Cook County Forest Preserve District. (15) Any building, classroom, laboratory, medical clinic, hospital, artistic venue, athletic venue, entertainment venue, officially recognized university-related organization property, whether owned or leased, and any real property, including parking areas, sidewalks, and common areas under the control of a public or private community college, college, or university. (16) Any building, real property, or parking area under the control of a gaming facility licensed under the Illinois Gambling Act or the Illinois Horse Racing Act of 1975, including an inter-track wagering location licensee. (17) Any stadium, arena, or the real property or parking area under the control of a stadium, arena, or any collegiate or professional sporting event. (18) Any building, real property, or parking area under the control of a public library, (19) an airport, (20) an amusement park, (21) a zoo or museum. (22) Any street, driveway, parking area, property, building, or facility, owned, leased, controlled, or used by a nuclear energy, storage, weapons, or development site or facility regulated by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The licensee shall not under any circumstance store a firearm or ammunition in his or her vehicle or in a compartment or container within a vehicle located anywhere in or on the street, driveway, parking area, property, building, or facility described in this paragraph. (23) Any area where firearms are prohibited under federal law. (a-5) Nothing in this Act shall prohibit a public or private community college, college, or university from: (1) prohibiting persons from carrying a firearm within a vehicle owned, leased, or controlled by the college or university; (2) developing resolutions, regulations, or policies regarding student, employee, or visitor misconduct and discipline, including suspension and expulsion; (3) the storage or maintenance of firearms, which must include designated areas where persons can park vehicles that carry firearms; and (4) permitting the carrying or use of firearms for the purpose of instruction and curriculum of officially recognized programs, including but not limited to military science and law enforcement training programs, or in any designated area used for hunting purposes or target shooting. (a-10) The owner of private real property of any type may prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms on the property under his or her control. The owner must post a sign in accordance with subsection (d) of this Section indicating that firearms are prohibited on the property, unless the property is a private residence. (b) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (a-5), and (a-10) of this Section except under paragraph (22) or (23) of subsection (a), any licensee prohibited from carrying a concealed firearm into the parking area of a prohibited location specified in subsection (a), (a-5), or (a-10) of this Section shall be permitted to carry a concealed firearm on or about his or her person within a vehicle into the parking area and may store a firearm or ammunition concealed in a case within a locked vehicle or locked container out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking area. A licensee may carry a concealed firearm in the immediate area surrounding his or her vehicle within a prohibited parking lot area only for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving a firearm within the vehicle's trunk. For purposes of this subsection, "case" includes a glove compartment or console that completely encloses the concealed firearm or ammunition, the trunk of the vehicle, or a firearm carrying box, shipping box, or other container. (c) A licensee shall not be in violation of this Section while he or she is traveling along a public right of way that touches or crosses any of the premises under subsection (a), (a-5), or (a-10) of this Section if the concealed firearm is carried on his or her person in accordance with the provisions of this Act or is being transported in a vehicle by the licensee in accordance with all other applicable provisions of law. (d) Signs stating that the carrying of firearms is prohibited shall be clearly and conspicuously posted at the entrance of a building, premises, or real property specified in this Section as a prohibited area, unless the building or premises is a private residence. Signs shall be of a uniform design as established by the Illinois State Police and shall be 4 inches by 6 inches in size. The Illinois State Police shall adopt rules for standardized signs to be used under this subsection.

(Source: P.A. 101-31, eff. 6-28-19; 102-538, eff. 8-20-21.)

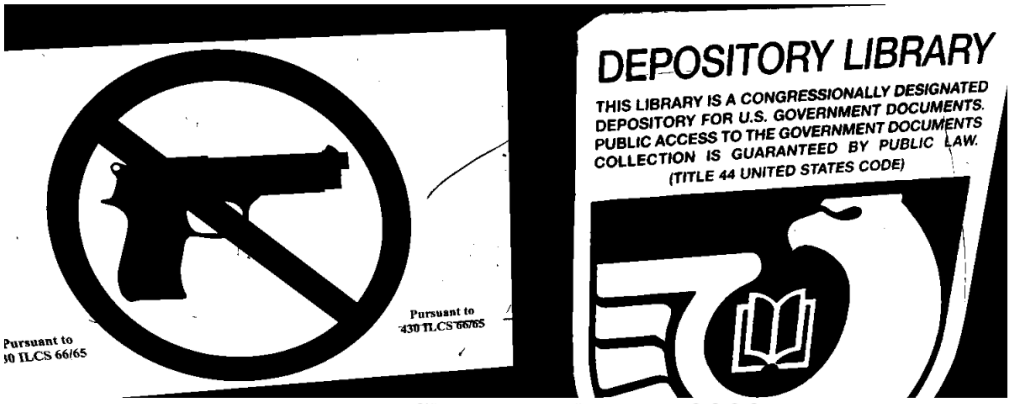
Serious question: Do the signs stop people with guns?

There are many excellent political cartoons critiquing gun cultures including “Stars and stripes and guns” by Frank Miller circa 1970-1980:

Courtesy of the Iowa Digital Library
(image permission requested February 2024)

He offers lots of critiques of gun culture, including one with the (sadly not satirical) caption: “A gun in every home! Next: a gun in every room! A gun in every car! A gun in every pocket! A gun in every purse!” John Collins has “Preparedness Six-Gun” (circa 1950, available through the McCord Museum digital collection when it comes back online) and Bill Maudlin often uses guns as a motif in his work (available in miniature digitally through the US Library of Congress).

Speaking of libraries, don’t take guns to them!


DEPOSITORY LIBRARY
THIS LIBRARY IS A CONGRESSIONALLY DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS COLLECTION IS GUARANTEED BY PUBLIC LAW. (TITLE 44 UNITED STATES CODE)
Pursuant to 430 ILCS 66/65
Pursuant to 430 ILCS 66/65

Downtown Chicago, February 2020

(see ILCS 66/65 condensed & in tiny type on the next page)

In April 2023, I went to [Members-Only Megastore] in Indiana and I put so much beer in my cart (for a party) that they made me put some back. So they have unlimited guns available to purchase, but limited fun (obviously it is not always the case that beer = fun, but they took away my abundant cases so I guess we'll never know).

We watched a pumpkin launch out of a canon in rural Illinois in October 2011. We live in a land of pervasive - even festive - violence.

I've learned to distinguish between fireworks/firecrackers/gun shots.

Oh, America.

Facebook post, June 2020

According to Wikipedia, school shootings in the USA started in 1840 when a student shot a law professor in Virginia. Someone on Reddit says that the first person killed by a gun was a dude in Scotland in 1570. So human beings have been at this disgusting hobby for a while.

In the article "31780 Reasons to Care About Gun Violence," the Population Reference Bureau notes: "In 2020, for the first time in decades, more children ages 17 and younger died from guns than from motor vehicle crashes." A dubious milestone, to be sure.

The following year, as the Pew Research Center reports in "What the data says about gun deaths in the US:" "More Americans died of gun-related injuries in 2021 than in any other year on record, according to the latest available statistics."

But you can buy bumper sticker for a Prius that says:
"My other car is a gun."

Esty, May 2021

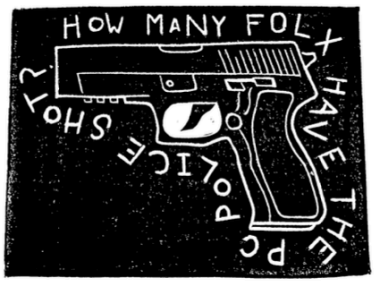
You can get your key copied into the shape of a gun at the hardware store. (Obviously, I got the skull-shaped one, like a civilized person.) And there's a magazine with a very creative* title (*GUNS*) available at the grocery store.

January 2020 (left); August 2023 (right)

Perhaps the target market for such a key was the dude with a gun at McDonald's in Phoenix, Arizona. Then again, I own a glue gun that could just as easily be referred to by the much more descriptive term "glue dispenser."

January 2023 (left); December 2023 (right)

One coudld inquire, "How many folx have the PC police shot?" (And is that meant to be an insult? Like, is someone acting like a police officer what is offensive? They are surveilling your behavior and that's... a bad thing???)



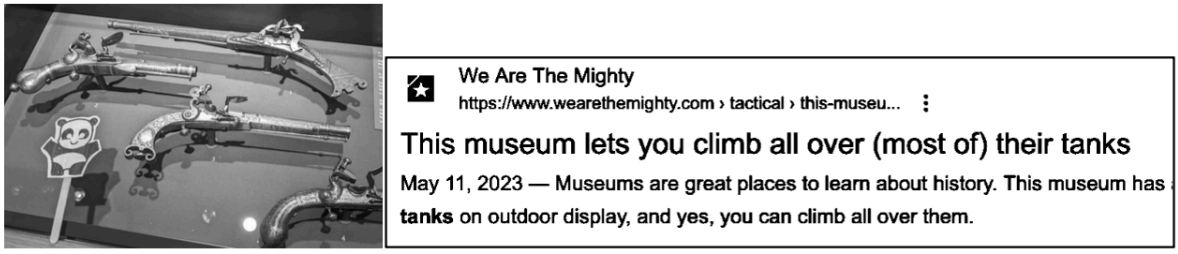
May 2021

* Sarcasm, again.

My household is part of the problem. Despite an early commitment to weapons-free play, we now have been gifted Nerf guns and water guns and knives and all sorts of deeply violent Americana (including toy soldiers and tanks and fighter jets and toy canons).

Baby with a water gun, 2019 (left); kid with a Nerf gun (2023)

The vibe is in the friggin' water here. We even took our darling *Doodleville* puppet to check out the artsy murder weapons at the Art Institute in Chicago. You can climb on tanks at Cantigny Park for fun.

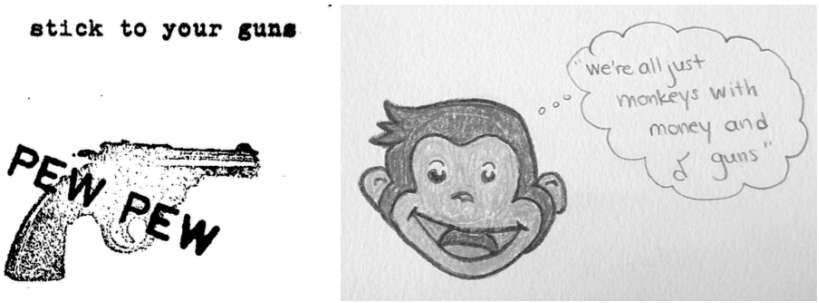

We Are The Mighty
https://www.wearethemighty.com › tactical › this-museu...
This museum lets you climb all over (most of) their tanks
May 11, 2023 — Museums are great places to learn about history. This museum has
tanks on outdoor display, and yes, you can climb all over them.

January 2022 (left); May 2023 (right)

You can even play with toy guns at a sporting goods store, the same store that sells a classy sign reading "Gun Rule Safety #1: Carry One."

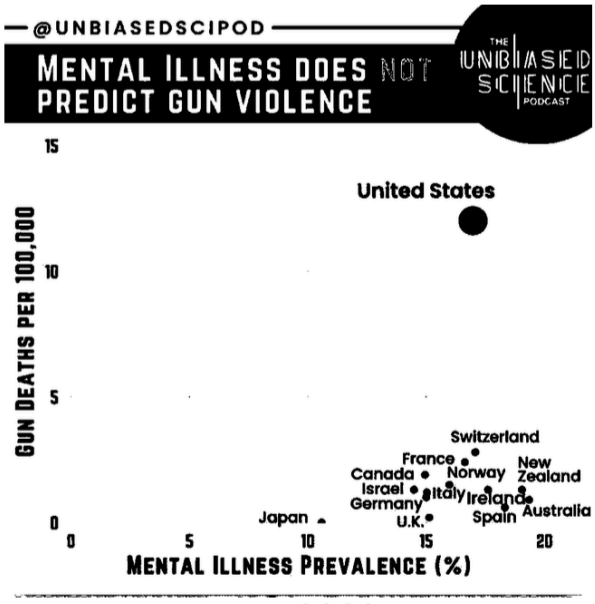
April 2021 (left and center); May 2023 (right)

"I am not throwing away my shot" was a fair bit of foreshadowing in *Hamilton*. So should you stick to your guns? Or dodge that bullet?



September 2022

How do we opt out of such a deeply pervasive gun culture that is embedded in the language we use so casually to talk about fortitude and luck? Gun culture is embedded in some of the most popular musicals and books like *Across Five Aprils* and *A Long Way from Chicago* (to choose just two young adult titles from the bookshelf nearest to me).



May 2022

You are apparently banned from legally purchasing a gun for five years after a psych-related hospitalization, even though that's not really the main issue. The issue remains legal or illegal access to guns.
Enough already.

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